

Message Text

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PASS: OES FOR HEMILY, NSF FOR GRANGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD/CST TASK FORCE ON IPG/CUG PROGRAMS:

MEETING OF EXPANDED TASK FORCE - JANUARY 26, 1976

REFS: (A) STATE 305389, (B) STATE 247903

1. SUMMARY. MISSION WILL REPRESENT US AT JANUARY 26 EXPANDED TASK FORCE MEETING AS REQUESTED IN REF (A). PRESENT SECRETARIAT PLAN IS TO HOLD FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF RESTRICTED TASK FORCE ON JANUARY 27. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT DR. GRANGER WILL BE PRESENT TO CHAIR BOTH MEETINGS. US PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM WILL BE RESUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF (B). END SUMMARY.

2. USOECD FORESEES NO PROBLEMS WITH US PRIORITIES REF (B) OTHER THAN THOSE THAT NORMALLY ARISE DURING THE SELECTION OF A SMALL NUMBER OF PROJECTS FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AND SUPPORTED BY DIFFERENT GROUPS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SECRETARIAT AND WITH IPG AND CUG MEMBERS ALREADY SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST IN TWO POLICY AREAS OF PRIORITY CONCERN TO THE US, VIZ. (A) ECONOMICS OF THE INFORMATION SECTOR, AND ITS INCLUSION IN THE GNP ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (KNOWN SUPPORT ON THE IPG SIDE BY AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, JAPAN, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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CERTAINLY OTHERS, JUDGING BY PAST EXPERIENCE). (B)

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION, TOGETHER
WITH THE ASSOCIATED PROBLEM OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

3. THE SECRETARIAT IS PREPARING AN ISSUES PAPER BASED
ON EXPANDED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TWELVE ACTIVITIES
LISTED IN SPT(75)14 ANNEX II, INCLUDING RELEVANCE TO
OTHER OECD PROGRAMS AND TO THE VARIOUS AGENCIES OR
MINISTRIES OF MEMBER COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS. OTHER THAN
FOR THE TWO US HIGH PRIORITIES MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE,
THE MISSION CANNOT FORECAST THE FINAL SELECTIONS OF
OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. THESE WILL PROBABLY BE
INFLUENCED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE REVISED PROJECT DES-
CRPTIONS, AND TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT BY THE REVISED PROJECT
DESCRIPTIONS, AND TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT BY THE OUTCOME
OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MEMBER-COUNTRIES BETWEEN IPG
AND CUG BACKSTOPPPING AUTHORITIES. IN THE LATTER CONNNECTION,
IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT (ACCORDING TO THE
SECRETARIAT), SEVERAL COUNTRIES ARE DISCUSSING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUPS (SIMILAR TO THE US
INTERAGENCY GROUP) FOR HANDLING IPG/CUG
PROGRAMS, AND THAT AT LEAST TWO COUNTRIES (AUSTRALIA AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM) HAVE VIRTUALLY SET UP SUCH A MECHANISM.

4. THE SECRETARIAT'S ISSUES PAPER EXPECTED THIS WEEK,
WILL BE AIRPOUCHED IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT.
KATZ

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